



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 103-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 21, 2023

To: [Senate Committee on Judiciary](#)
[Senator Floyd Prozanski](#), Chair

Re: [SB 325](#) – Prohibits license revocation based solely on criminal records - **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports SB 325 based on our adult corrections position that the goal of incarceration is rehabilitation. This bill provides assurance that licensing boards, commissions, or agencies cannot use a criminal conviction or juvenile adjudication as the sole reason to deny, suspend, or revoke an occupational or professional license. The important exception would be if the conviction substantially relates to the specific duties and responsibilities for which the license is required.

As stated on the Department of Corrections' website, the Oregon Constitution was amended in 1996 to say, "Laws for the punishment of crimes shall be founded on these principles: protection of society, personal responsibility, accountability for one's actions and reformation" with the objective being "successful reintegration back to society." Reformation and reintegration cannot be accomplished if roadblocks continue to exist for obtaining a license that is an essential requirement for certain occupations.

We agree with the criteria for determining on a case-by-case basis how determinations should be made as to the relationship between the conviction and the "specific duties and responsibilities for which a license is required." We also agree with the specific types of arrest and conviction records that must not be considered in granting a license, the petition process by which an individual can achieve this determination, and the strict limitations on acquiring sealed or expunged juvenile records. We believe it is paramount, however, that there be careful adherence to the Department of Justice's Privacy Policy when it comes to who is privy to certain records and personal information.

We urge support for SB 325 and thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marge Easley".

Marge Easley
LWVOR Action Committee